

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Statehouse
Boise, Idaho 83720

From H₂O Files

August 12, 1983

FILE NOTE

SUBJECT: Fluoride Contamination Near Monsanto

On August 11, 1983 Larry Koenig and I met with Gordon Allen and Bill Condie of Monsanto.

They informed us they found elevated fluoride levels in the range of 6 to 7 ppm in a spring south of their facilities. They have been sampling the spring as part of their routine environmental monitoring program.

Because of the elevated fluoride level in the spring, they decided to sample a private well east of the spring which they hadn't tested before. They found a fluoride level in the Harris well of 6.67 ppm. The well is approximately 70 feet deep.

Monsanto has four monitoring wells at the southwest corner of their property which allows testing of four separate aquifer systems. Two of the wells were installed in 1978 and the other two in 1981. There hasn't been any indication of elevated fluoride in these wells.

Monsanto primarily has lined ponds for their process water. In the winter they occasionally use the old unlined ponds. Bill Condie indicated that in the early 70's one of their production wells showed elevated fluoride levels (3-4 ppm) from an unlined pond. Once the pond was lined the fluoride levels dropped.

They asked for and received information about the characteristics of the wastewater discharge from the break of the Beker pond back in 1976.

Mr. Condie and Mr. Allen asked us about the health significance of the elevated fluoride in the Harris well. Dick Rogers came in briefly and explained that in the 6-7 ppm range the concern is mottling of teeth. He recommended that children 12 years and younger use an alternative drinking water source. Dick indicated that higher levels of 10 ppm or

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greater would be of concern because of potential health problems associated with the impact of fluoride on human bones.

We informed Mr. Condie and Mr. Allen we would request Gordon Hopson of our Pocatello office to investigate the matter.



Al Murrey

AEM:par

cc: Gordon Hopson